

HOUSE No. 2141

By Ms. Grant of Beverly, petition of Anthony J. Verga and others for legislation to preserve the right of way for the North/South rail link. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Anthony J. Verga	Teamsters Rail Conference,
Christine E. Canavan	by Daniel Lauzon
Elizabeth A. Malia	Douglas W. Petersen
Kay Khan	National Corridors Initiative,
James B. Eldridge	by V.P. John A. Businger
Joyce A. Spiliotis	National Corridors Initiative,
Peter V. Kocot	by Pres. James RePass
Teamsters Rail Conference,	
by George J. Newman	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO PRESERVE THE RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE NORTH SOUTH RAIL LINK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 161C of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 adding after the last sentence the following sentence:—
4 Furthermore, to carry out the purposes of this section, the Com-
5 monwealth of Massachusetts shall preserve intact the right of way
6 for the proposed North South Rail Link. This right of way is
7 extremely vulnerable to the impact of development and redevelop-
8 ment around the existing rail tracks and terminals. In addition,
9 rail projects already in planning and construction phases will
10 exceed the capacity of the South Station terminal. Preservation of
11 the right of way for the North South Rail Link will assure that rail
12 transportation can be enhanced or expanded in our region.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 161C of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 7 the following section:—

3 Section 8. This section requires the Commonwealth of Massa-
4 chusetts through its executive office of transportation and con-
5 struction, in consultation with the Massachusetts turnpike
6 authority, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to perform
7 a study to specifically identify and map the necessary right of way
8 to allow for the construction of the proposed North South Rail
9 Link connecting North Station to South Station. This study must
10 include particular reference to the Major Investment Study/Draft
11 Environmental Impact Report (EOEA#10270), prepared under the
12 aegis of the executive office of environmental affairs which was
13 concluded on March 31, 2003. A plan to preserve said right of
14 way, once identified, shall be determined and implemented imme-
15 diately.